

In re Patent Application of:  
DELVECCHIO ET AL.  
Serial No. 10/628,623  
Filing Date: JULY 28, 2003

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REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for her thorough examination of the present application and for correctly indicating the allowability of the subject matter of dependent Claims 4, 8, 11, 14, 18, 21, 28, 32, 35, and 38.

Applicants also thank the Examiner for extending all courtesies during the telephonic interview conducted on December 7, 2006. Applicants have amended independent Claims 1, 16, 25, and 33 to recite the subject matter of now canceled dependent Claims 4, 18, 28, and 35, respectively, to advance prosecution and without prejudice to Applicants' right to file a continuation application. Applicants have added independent Claim 39, which recites the subject matter of Claims 1 and 8, and independent Claim 44, which recites the subject matter of Claims 16 and 21. For consistency, Applicants have also canceled dependent Claims 3, 17, 27, and 34.

Applicants submit that independent Claims 1, 16, 25, 33, 39, and 44 are patentable over the prior art. Their respective dependent claims, that contain yet further distinguishing features are also patentable, and require no further discussion herein. Applicants also submit that no new issues are raised.

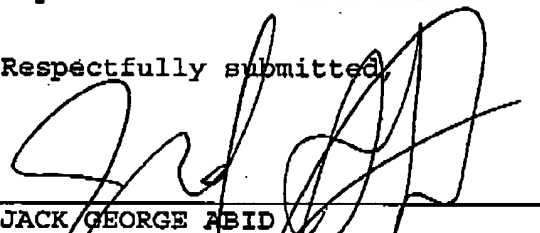
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Conclusions

In view of the amendments to the claims presented herein, it is submitted that all of the claims are patentable. Accordingly, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested in due course. Should any minor informalities need to be addressed, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing correspondence has been forwarded via facsimile number 571-273-8300 to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 this 11<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2006.

